

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). Method of coating of a device with a substance comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting said device into a solution of said substance, and
- (b) drying said device while being in ~~contacting~~ contact with said solution.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of removing volatile components from said solution of said substance.

3 (Original). The method of claim 2, wherein said removal step is performed before, simultaneously, or after step (b).

4 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein said substance is a pharmaceutically active substance.

5 (Original). The method of claim 4, wherein said pharmaceutically active substance is a protein, peptide, polysaccharide or a glycolipid or a small molecule.

6 (Original). The method of claim 5, wherein said pharmaceutically active substance is immobilised in an inorganic or organic bioresorbable material.

7 (Original). The method of claim 5, wherein said pharmaceutically active substance is a dissolved osteoinductive protein.

8 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein said substance comprises non-active ingredients.

- 9 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein said substance comprises calcium phosphates.
- 10 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said drying step comprises isothermal drying.
- 11 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said coating of said device is performed while said device is received within its packaging container.
- 12 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said solution is an aqueous solution or an organic solvent.
- 13 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said solution is an acid aqueous solution.
- 14 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said solution contains an antioxidant.
- 15 (Original). The method of claim 14, wherein said antioxidant is methionin or its derivatives.
- 16 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said device is made of metal or metal alloy, preferably titanium or a titanium alloy.
- 17 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said device is a dental implant, or a coronary stent.

18 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises:

- (a1) providing a packaging container for said device;
- (a2) filling said coating solution into said container;
- (a3) inserting said device into said filled container;

wherein the order of steps (a2) and (a3) can be reversed.

19 (Original). The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) applying a hydrophobic material onto said inner surfaces of said container, and
- (b) heat-curing said applied material to form a baked-in layer on said inner surfaces of said container; wherein said coating influences the distribution coefficient of the substance to be coated on said device between said container and said device.

20 (Original). The method of claim 19, wherein said hydrophobic material is silicone or PTFE.

21 (Currently Amended). The method of claim ~~19 or 20~~, wherein step (a) comprises siliconizing said inner surfaces using silicone emulsion.

22 (Original). The method of claim 18, said packaging container comprising a receptacle for receiving said device to be coated, said receptacle being adapted in size and shape to the size and shape of said device.

23 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the inner surface of said receptacle is coated.

24 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 18, further comprising the step of applying a vacuum for removing air bubbles, prior to step (b).

25 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 18, wherein step (b) is performed at about 100 hPa at ambient temperature.

26 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 18, wherein step (b) is performed using an ice-condenser.

27 (Currently Amended). The method of ~~any of claim[s] 18 to 26~~, further comprising the step of evacuating said container, venting it with nitrogen, and closing said container under nitrogen.

28 (Currently Amended). Packaging container for device, said packaging container being adapted such that said device is coatable with a substance directly within said packaging container by contacting said device into a solution of said substance and drying said device while being in contact with said solution.

29 (Original). The packaging container according to claim 28, said packaging container being adapted in size and shape to the size and shape of said device.

30 (Currently Amended). The packaging container according to claim ~~28 or 29~~, wherein the inner surface of said packaging container is coated.

31 (Currently Amended). The packaging container according to claim 30, wherein the inner surface of said packaging container is coated with a layer of an inert, ~~repelling~~ [(hydrophobic[/] or hydrophilic[)], material.

32 (Original). The packaging container according to claim 28, comprising a receptacle for receiving said device to be coated, said receptacle being adapted in size and shape to the size and shape of said device.

33 (Original). The packaging container according to claim 32, wherein the inner surface of said receptacle is coated.

34 (Currently Amended). The packaging container according to claim 33, wherein the inner surface of said receptacle is coated with a layer of an inert, ~~repelling~~ [(hydrophobic[/] or hydrophilic[)], material.

35 (Currently Amended). The packaging container according to claim 31 ~~or~~ 34, wherein the hydrophobic material is a silicone.

36 (Currently Amended). The packaging container according to claim 31 ~~or~~ 34, wherein the hydrophobic material is PTFE.

37 (Currently Amended). The packaging container according to ~~any of claim[s] 32 to 36~~28, wherein said receptacle is coaxially located within a container housing.

38 (Original). The packaging container according to claim 37, wherein said container housing comprises an opening for receiving said device and said coating substance, and a bottom portion being located opposite to said opening, wherein said receptacle comprises an opening for receiving said device and said coating substance, and a bottom portion being located opposite to said opening, said opening of said housing and said opening of said receptacle being aligned with each other, and wherein said receptacle is attached at its bottom portion to the bottom portion of said housing.

39 (Original). The packaging container according to claim 38, wherein the opening portion of said receptacle is spaced from the opening portion of said housing.

40 (Currently Amended). The packaging container according to ~~any of claim[s] 28 to 39~~, being made of glass.

41 (Original). Method of coating the inner surfaces of a packaging container for a device, preferably implants, to be coated by a substance, comprising the steps of:

- (a) applying a hydrophobic material onto said inner surfaces of said container, and
- (b) heat-curing said applied material to form a baked-in layer on said inner surfaces of said container;

wherein said coating influences the distribution coefficient of the substance to be coated on said device between said container and said device.

42 (Original). The method of claim 41, wherein said hydrophobic material is silicone or PTFE.

43 (Currently Amended). The method of claim ~~41 or~~ 42, wherein step (a) comprises siliconizing said inner surfaces using silicone emulsion.

44 (Currently Amended). Coated device, obtainable by a method according to ~~any of~~ claim[s] 1 to 27.

45 (Original). The coated device of claim 44, wherein said device is an implant.

46 (Original). The coated device of claim 45, wherein said implant is a dental implant.

47 (Currently Amended). The coated device of claim 45, wherein said implant is a stent, a nail, a cage, a screw, or a plate, respectively.

48 (Currently Amended). Use of said method of coating a device according to ~~any of~~ claim[s] 1 to 27 for improving the homogeneous distribution of the coating on the device.

49 (Currently Amended). Use of said method of coating a packaging container according to ~~any of claim[s] 41 to 43~~ for improving and/or controlling the distribution coefficient of the substance to be coated on said device between said container and said device.

50 (Currently Amended). A kit comprising the device which is obtainable by the method of ~~any one of claim[s] 1 to 27~~.